



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 2, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: June 1, 2003
CWP WA-CW2203

Warm, Wet Conditions Ideal for Palouse Crops Tent Caterpillar Population High in West

Field Crops

The combination of warm and wet conditions was ideal for crop development across the Palouse. Field crops and grasses were growing rapidly with the much needed warmer conditions. In the west, nearly all spring planted crops looked excellent due in part to light rains received during germination and emergence. In Skagit County, significant amounts of rust were seen in some winter wheat fields. Christmas tree growers continued applying sprays for insect and disease control.

Livestock

Livestock producers and dairymen continued to harvest green chop. Forage harvest in silage bags continued on a large scale across western Washington. In Stevens County, livestock producers finished moving cows and calves to summer pastures. Range and pasture conditions were 1% poor, 25% fair, 59% good, and 15% excellent.

Fruits and Vegetables

Fruit and vegetable development was strong with early strawberries coming into area Farmer's Markets. Planting continued on broccoli, cauliflower, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, sweet corn and squash in the west. High populations of tent caterpillars were observed, leaving many western fruit trees defoliated. In the central region, asparagus harvest and sweet corn planting continued. Warm weather also enhanced fruit growth rates across the Yakima Valley.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.5
Last Week	6.4

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	5	92	3
Subsoil	0	6	89	5
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay & Roughage	0	2	96	2

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Emerged	98	97	98	99
Spring Wheat Headed	12	2	15	7
Winter Wheat Headed	37	19	28	43
Barley Emerged	97	96	99	99
Barley Headed	4	1	25	0
Potatoes Emerged	94	78	92	92
Corn Planted	98	98	91	97
Corn Emerged	77	65	36	0
Dry Edible Beans Planted	71	51	45	54
Proc. Green Peas Planted	100	99	99	0
Dry Peas Planted	100	99	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	68	52	47	36

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	0	2	20	57	21
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	5	83	12
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	40	40	20
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	3	97	0
Barley Dryland	0	0	30	45	25
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Potatoes	0	0	1	54	45
Corn	0	0	0	100	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	2	45	53

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn growers continued planting at a feverish pace under nearly ideal sowing conditions. Temperatures in the high 70's quickly warmed soils, resulting in rapid corn seed germination. Livestock producers and dairymen continued forage green chop harvest. Christmas tree growers applied sprays for fungus diseases and insect pests. Truck farmers continued planting warm season vegetable crops.

Kitsap: Crop conditions improved dramatically. Fruit and vegetable development was strong with early strawberries coming into area Farmer's Markets. Many fruit trees were defoliated by tent caterpillars over the past three weeks.

Skagit: Nearly all spring-planted crops looked excellent due in part to light rains during germination and emergence. Cool weather held weeds back, with temperatures mostly in the 60's. Significant amounts of rust were seen in some winter wheat fields. Apples were being thinned. Planting continued on broccoli, cauliflower, cucumbers, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, and squash. Seed companies were finalizing contracts for fall-planted vegetable seed. Producers were gearing up for the strawberry harvest. High populations of tent caterpillars were observed in deciduous trees, with larvae moving into the pupal stage.

Snohomish/N. King: The weather was good all week, with temperatures hitting 84 degrees by Thursday. Fieldwork continued and planting was underway. Grass harvest also

continued. Pastures were growing well with the warm weather. Raspberries were in blossom and strawberries were ripening. Tent caterpillars were a problem in some areas.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): The weather was a little bit spring and a little bit summer. The daytime and nighttime temperatures were steadily rising as the first official day of summer approaches. Crops were showing good growth, and most Farmer's Markets were open with the first fresh local produce. Hay fields and pastures had excellent growth.

Thurston: A week of beautiful sunny weather resulted in nearly ideal growing conditions throughout the county. Several areas within the county recorded daytime temperatures reaching the low eighties. Turfgrass growers were irrigating fields in order to retain soil moisture. Forage harvest in silage bags continued on a large scale. Christmas tree growers continued applying sprays for insect and disease control. Organic truck farmers were cultivating for weed control. Commercial iris growers were relieved that the drier weather seemed to be reducing fungus disease problems on foliage. Dairymen continued applying liquid manure.

Whatcom: Corn and potato planting should be winding down. The weather was cloudy with a bit of a breeze. Temperatures were in the 60's. Bees were in the raspberry fields. Strawberries were blooming. It may be a late harvest for them this year.

Central

Benton: There were some light showers during the week.

Okanogan/Ferry: Swathing of the first cutting of alfalfa hay was underway. Due to the cold spring weather conditions, harvesting of hay was later than normal. Spring pasture conditions were good.

Franklin: Asparagus harvest continued, as did the first cutting of alfalfa. The potato crop emerged and had good growth. Warmer temperatures were accelerating crop growth. Some sweet corn was still being planted.

Grant: Sweet corn planting continued. Rainfall over Memorial Day affected nearly 80 percent of the hay that was cut. Green pea harvest is slated to begin next week.

Yakima: Warm weather enhanced fruit growth rates. Wind, rain and scattered hail continued to disturb localized production areas. Commercial harvest of cherries will start up this week. Crop looked good.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures were from 1 to 12 degrees above normal, with .01" of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Adams: Warm weather during the week brought both winter and spring cereals along. Winter wheat was heading and spring cereals began to head in the southern end of the county. Winter and spring cereals condition remained mostly fair to good. Measurable precipitation will be needed during the next two weeks to maintain crops in this condition.

Asotin/Garfield: Rain showers passed through the area early in the week, providing needed moisture for crops and pastures. The totals were spotty, with some areas receiving very little. Crops were in mostly good condition. Grasses in the pastures seem to have headed out smaller than normal, mainly due to the cold in the spring.

Lincoln: Winter and spring cereals remained in mostly fair to good condition. Precipitation will be needed to maintain crops in this condition.

Stevens: During the past week, the county experienced warm and sunny weather. Steady rains provided good moisture on Saturday. Alfalfa, pasture, and grain crops all appeared to be

doing well. Livestock producers finished moving cows and calves to summer pastures.

Spokane/Pend Oreille: The two counties experienced abnormally high temperatures for this time of the year for a couple of days. Some ground was showing stress. Rain was received on Friday, May 30. Amounts varied from .5" to 1.25" with the north end of the county receiving larger amounts. The producers in Pend Oreille County have had difficulty getting fieldwork done this spring. Crops were looking pretty good.

Walla Walla: Weather conditions were cool and breezy throughout the week. Crops throughout the area appeared in good condition.

Whitman: Warmer conditions prevailed in the Palouse, however; passing showers continued to provide needed moisture. The combination of warm and wet conditions was ideal for crop development. Field crops and grasses were growing rapidly with the much needed warmer conditions.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

June 2, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	41	75	58	3	56	16	2	0	0.02	-0.47	2	24.33	-7.40	77	132
Everett	45	71	59	3	64	19	3	-1	0.11	-0.39	2	23.86	-7.99	75	135
Hoquiam	43	82	57	3	53	17	8	8	0.00	-0.63	0	59.59	-3.54	94	146
Kelso	48	82	62	6	86	39	18	11	0.00	-0.54	0	23.19	-18.85	55	97
Olympia	39	78	60	5	69	31	8	8	0.07	-0.35	1	36.44	-10.47	78	140
Sea-Tac	46	78	61	5	82	29	14	9	0.07	-0.29	2	30.70	-3.14	91	130
Shelton	42	81	60	2	71	17	9	2	0.04	-0.43	2	54.08	-6.93	89	138
Tacoma	41	77	60	3	72	19	11	5	0.02	-0.40	1	25.88	-10.49	71	123
Vancouver	50	85	65	8	106	54	36	29	0.00	-0.49	0	33.96	-3.73	90	132
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	44	83	63	5	91	34	23	13	0.03	-0.11	3	7.80	0.03	100	79
Omak	46	82	65	8	104	52	34	25	0.11	-0.24	1	11.68	-0.36	97	58
Stampede Pass	37	72	53	9	25	21	0	0	0.12	-0.64	2	57.28	-17.57	77	137
Wenatchee	50	86	67	6	124	39	54	30	0.02	-0.12	1	8.64	1.55	122	71
Yakima AP	41	86	66	6	112	41	43	27	0.01	-0.13	1	7.98	1.08	116	58
NORTHEAST															
Colville	50	88	67	10	120	70	50	41	0.17	-0.25	1	16.26	-1.54	91	66
Deer Park	42	81	61	5	80	30	15	8	0.75	0.40	2	19.99	4.25	127	91
Spokane AP	46	84	63	6	91	40	23	15	1.08	0.73	2	14.68	0.79	106	98
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	42	87	68	4	124	29	56	25	0.03	-0.11	1	7.56	1.36	122	54
Moses Lake	49	88	68	5	130	35	60	29	0.00	-0.14	0	7.87	1.67	127	72
Quincy	47	83	67	6	117	36	47	24	0.00	-0.14	0	6.03	-0.72	89	50
Ritzville	46	87	63	6	93	40	27	18	0.18	-0.01	2	10.91	1.05	111	79
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	48	93	69	4	136	20	66	20	0.06	-0.02	1	8.00	2.28	140	67
Pasco	48	92	69	5	133	31	63	27	0.00	-0.14	0	7.07	0.48	107	70
Pullman	46	79	62	7	84	45	18	12	0.25	-0.11	2	9.43	-8.64	52	84
Whitman Miss.	48	88	66	5	113	38	43	24	0.02	-0.19	1	14.32	2.45	121	114
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	45	82	62	5	87	28	24	14	0.90	0.41	4	17.75	-4.08	81	96
Lewiston ID	49	86	67	6	118	36	48	25	0.50	0.15	3	12.13	2.35	124	104

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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